



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Kelly D. Jones
Serial No.: 10/713,540
Filed: November 14, 2003
For: Connectors and Railing
System Having Metal Balusters
Isolated From Corrosion

November 30, 2004
Group Art Unit 3679
Examiner: John R. Cottingham

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Mail Stop AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application.

No additional fee for excess claims is believed to be due. In the event that additional fees are due, however, or in the event that additional time is necessary to render the amendment timely, the Commissioner is respectfully requested to extend the shortened statutory period for response to the outstanding Office action and he is authorized to charge the appropriate fee(s) to Deposit Account No. 06-1090.

Respectfully submitted,

(Mrs.) Grace J. Fishel
Reg. No. 25,864

(314) 878-0440

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on November 30, 2004.

Grace J. Fishel

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AMENDMENT A

Mail Stop AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to an Office action dated August 30, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended). A connector for use in isolating painted tubular metal balusters from rails formed of wood treated with a wood preservative that is corrosive to the tubular metal balusters or from a wood preservative that is corrosive to the paint, said connector formed of a chemically inert material and comprising a body and a flat disk,

said body having an upper frustum with a top and a base and a lower frustum with a top and a base, said upper and lower frustums joined at their bases, said body adapted to conform and wedge into an end of a tubular metal baluster; and,